



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

~ Albert Einstein, born March 14, 1879

Friday, March 14, 2008

The Indiana Department of Correction, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and ARAMARK Correctional Services, recently registered fifteen of the Department's facilities in the DOL's apprenticeship program involving food service. The program teams ARAMARK's "Inmate to Workmate" program with the DOL's "Cook – Any Industry" apprenticeship program.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility recently conducted its monthly job fair, and the event attracted twenty-three candidates for several officer positions and other employment opportunities.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility (PREF) held a fundraiser for the Sheltering Wing's Women's Shelter and St. Mark's Episcopal Food Pantry. The fundraiser was a collaboration of PREF staff and residents of the Toastmasters and Fatherhood programs. Kentucky Fried Chicken was sold to the residents of the facility, and each charity received a designated amount of money, with the remainder of the funds being allotted to the Fatherhood program.

Rockville Correctional Facility staff members participated in the Terre Haute Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl-a-Thon and raised \$1300 for the organization. This was the first time the facility participated in the effort, in which five DOC teams participated.

The Indiana State Prison basketball team, coached by former NBA player Winston Garlard, was interviewed by the Northwest Times.

Madison Correctional Facility recently added two new Back Row Enterprises programs. One of the programs, Lifespring, provides substance abuse treatment to the offenders and to members of the community. The other, Turning Point Domestic Violence, provides support and education to offenders and the community about domestic violence.

Students from the Criminal Justice program at Ivy Tech – Sellersburg toured Henryville Correctional Facility. The students received information on many topics, such as control room operation to visitation procedures, and the students had the opportunity to ask offenders about the circumstances that brought them to prison.

Branchville Correctional Facility received another dog for the Shelter Puppies Offender Trained (SPOT) program. Offender dog handlers will house break and teach basic obedience commands to the puppies to suit them as family pets. To date, the SPOT program has saved twelve dogs from euthanization.

An Inside Out Dad graduation was held for five offenders on Sunday at Pendleton Correctional Facility. Family members were permitted to attend, and refreshments were served to the offenders and their visitors following the program.

The staff and offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program made 520 Easter gift bags filled with snack donations received from community contributions. The bags were distributed to the Homeless Initiative, children of offenders in the Family Preservation Program, and offenders at the facility.

Indiana State Prison received thank you letters from the children of Knapp School's Safe Harbor Program in Michigan City who received bicycles from ISP's Shifting Gears program.

A four-day seminar called "Freedom 101" was presented to twenty-six offenders at Madison Correctional Facility. The seminar incorporated humor, open discussion, and music to help offenders set new goals and was presented by two volunteer facilitators and eight other volunteers who served as group leaders.